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P R E F A C E .

THIS, the Sixth Volume issued by the Society (forming the Third of the New Series), will, it is hoped, be found, in the value of its component parts, equal to any of those that have preceded it.

The Editor would particularly direct attention to a paper on the history of the family of the lamented John O'Donovan. A mournful interest attaches to it as being one of the latest published products of his pen, and as supplying information of great value to the biographer, when the time comes to write the life of one of Ireland's truest patriots, and her greatest Celtic scholar—now, alas ! in the midst of his labours, prematurely taken from among us for ever.

For aid towards the illustration of this Volume the thanks of the Society are due to Captain Edward Hoare ; the Council of the Cambrian Archæological Association ; the Rev. Samuel Hayman ; and the Council of the Royal Irish Academy.

JAMES GRAVES, A.B., M.R.I.A.

KILKENNY, *December* 31, 1861.